

II. CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently amended) A method, comprising: for replying to a call coming to a portable terminal wherein,

in response to an incoming call to a portable terminal, ~~the portable terminal identifies—identifying by said portable terminal~~ a caller on the basis of an identification information and

~~sends—sending a reply to said caller, or directs the incoming call to another answering service,~~ said reply having a form selectable from a plurality of forms of communication;_;

~~and wherein a step of identifying the caller is accomplished by said portable terminal, and a step of sending a reply is accomplished by said portable terminal according to a selection made by the user, said selection comprising a command received from the user after alerting the user of said incoming call, said portable terminal being capable of performing said step of sending a reply by providing a selected response to said caller only through an action of said portable terminal irrespectively of which of said plurality of forms of communication is employed in the selected response.~~

2. (Currently amended) The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein ~~the portable terminal sends said reply immediately in response to an incoming call, and~~ said plurality of forms of communication include a voice message, an e-mail message, a facsimile, and an SMS (Short Message Service) message in the form of a character string.

3. (Previously presented) The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein in response to an incoming call, the portable terminal alarms and waits during a certain predefined delay, and if a user during said delay does not answer said call, the portable terminal sends said reply.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously presented) the method in accordance with claim 3, wherein the portable terminal gives a soundless alarm.

6. (Previously presented) The method in accordance with claim 2, wherein the portable terminal routes said call additionally to a usual call answering machine.

7. (Previously presented) The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said reply is at least partly formulated based on the identification of the calling party.

8. (Previously presented) The method in accordance with claim 7, wherein a reply is sent to certain identified calling parties only.

9. (Previously presented) The method in accordance with claim 7, wherein the reply to be sent in response to the incoming call is different according to the respective company said call is coming from.

10. (Previously presented) The method in accordance with claim 7, wherein the reply to be sent in response to the incoming call is different according to the respective country said call is coming from.

11. (Previously presented) The method in accordance with claim 7, wherein the reply to be sent in response to the incoming call is different according to the respective time zone said call is coming from.

12. (Currently amended) The method in accordance with claim 7, wherein said identification of the calling party is based on a telephone notebook comprised by the ~~communication~~portable terminal.

13. (Previously presented) The method in accordance with claim 12, wherein a piece of information applying to calling party, read from said telephone notebook, is included in said reply.

14. (Previously presented) The method in accordance with claim 7, wherein a reminder to call the identified calling party will be stored into the portable terminal, in order to be presented to a user later.

15. (Previously presented) The method in accordance claim 1, wherein said reply includes time information.

16. (Previously presented) The method in accordance with claim 15, wherein said time information comprises a reference to a certain fixed time by a clock.

17. (Previously presented) The method in accordance with claim 15, wherein said time information comprises the length of the time that is left from incoming of the call to a certain fixed time by a clock.

18. (Previously presented) The method in accordance with claim 15, wherein when a user has entered information concerning his/her time schedule into the portable terminal, the portable terminal forms said time information automatically by reading from said time schedule information the time when the user will be reachable.

19. (Previously presented) The method in accordance with claim 15, wherein when the time until the time expressed by said time information has expired, the function controlling the sending of replies in the portable terminal in response to an incoming call is automatically disconnected.

20. (Currently amended) A portable terminal ~~for replying to an incoming call, said portable terminal comprising:~~

means for identifying a caller on the basis of an identification information, and

means for sending a reply in response to the call, said reply having a form selectable from a plurality of forms of communication; ~~and~~

wherein said means for sending a reply is capable of sending said reply according to a selection made by the user, said selection comprising a command received from the user after alerting the user of said incoming call, by providing a selected response to said caller only through an action of said portable terminal ~~irrespectively of which of said plurality of forms of communication is employed in the selected response.~~

21. (Previously presented) The portable terminal in accordance with claim 20, further comprising a real time clock and means for including time information in said reply, said forms of communication including a voice message, e-mail message, facsimile, or SMS (Short Message Service) message.

22. (Previously presented) The portable terminal in accordance with claim 20, wherein said forms of communication include a voice message, an e-mail message, a facsimile, and an SMS message in the form of a character string, the portable terminal further comprising a downwards counting timer for expressing the length of the time that is left from a certain predefined time period, and means for attaching the information expressed by said timer to said voice message, e-mail message, facsimile, or SMS (Short Message Service) message.

23. (Currently amended) A method for replying to a call by a portable terminal, comprising the steps of:

in response to an incoming call, the portable terminal identifies a caller on the basis of caller identification information, and sends a reply ~~or directs the incoming call to another answering service~~, said portable terminal being capable of sending said reply in any one of a plurality of modes of response, said reply being in one of said plurality of modes of response; and

wherein a step of identifying the caller is accomplished by said portable terminal, and a step of sending a reply is accomplished by said portable terminal according to a selection made by the user, irrespectively of which of said plurality of modes of response is employed in a selected response, said selection comprising a command received from the user after alerting the user of said incoming call.

24. (Currently amended) A communication device for replying to an incoming call, wherein said communication device comprises means for identifying a caller on the basis of an identification information, and reply means for sending a reply in response to the call, said reply being ~~in~~ one of a plurality of modes of response; and

wherein said reply means is capable of sending said reply by providing a selected response to said caller according to a selection made by the user, said selection comprising a command received from the user after alerting the user of said incoming call, said reply means including a data entry device for generating a response and a selector of a previously stored response.

25. (Currently amended) A method for replying to a call coming to a portable terminal, wherein in response to an incoming call, the portable terminal identifies a caller on the basis of an identification information and takes a response action based on said identifying of the caller, and wherein a step of identifying the caller is accomplished by said portable terminal, and a step of taking response action is accomplished by said portable terminal according to a selection made by the user, said selection comprising a command received from the user after alerting the user of said incoming call, said portable terminal being capable of performing said step of taking response action by providing a selected response to said caller only through an action of said portable terminal.

26. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 25, wherein said step of taking response action comprises sending a reply to the caller, said reply being one of the following: a voice message, an e-mail message, a facsimile, and an SMS (Short Message Service) message in the form of a character string.

27. – 32. (Cancelled)

33. (Currently amended) A portable terminal for replying to an incoming call, said portable terminal comprising means responsive to the incoming call for identifying a caller on the basis of an identification information, and means for responding to the incoming call with a response action based on identification of the caller, wherein the response action is a selected response to said caller according to a selection made by the user, said selection comprising a command received from the user after alerting the user of said incoming call ~~only through an action of said portable terminal.~~

34. (Previously presented) The portable terminal according to claim 33, wherein said response action comprises sending a reply to the caller, said reply being one of the following: a voice message, an e-mail message, a facsimile, and an SMS (Short Message Service) message in the form of a character string.

35. – 40. (Cancelled)

41. (Previously presented) The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said step of sending a reply is based on said identification information and on said plurality of forms of communication, and is based further on any one of a set of parameters including the country from which said call is coming, the time zone from which said call is coming, a time schedule pre-established by a user of the portable terminal, and a response action to be taken on the basis of a previously made preselection by a user of the portable terminal.

42. (Previously presented) The portable terminal according to claim 20, wherein said sending of a reply is based on said identification information and on said plurality of forms of communication, and is based further on any one of a set of parameters including the country from which said call is coming, the time zone from which said call

is coming, a time schedule pre-established by a user of the portable terminal, and a response action to be taken on the basis of a previously made preselection by a user of the portable terminal.